



# SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



If you have been forwarded this message and would like to subscribe to future publications or you wish to no longer receive future publications please [contact me here](#).

## GPS Technology

GPS (Global Positioning System) technology has made many advances over the last few years which have resulted in many practical uses. For example, GPS technology can be used in cars to provide maps and directions, track sex offenders, and it can be used to pinpoint 911 emergency calls through cell phones. Anyone who needs to keep track of where he or she is, to find his or her way to a specified location, or how fast he or she is going, can utilize the benefits of GPS technology.

There are two types of GPS technology: basic radio-wave based navigation and differential GPS. The main difference between the two types is accuracy. While radio-wave can bring users within five meters of a target, differential GPS can consistently bring users within one meter or less to a given area.

Differential GPS and other advancements in the technology is also a useful tool for law enforcement, particularly with keeping track of parolees. One recent famous example was Martha Stewart, who was required to wear a GPS device on her ankle. The GPS unit gives law enforcement the ability to be alerted whenever a parolee proceeds outside of the GPS boundaries set for them, thus notifying officers of a potential parole violation.

Many people might confuse the above ankle bracelet example to an ankle bracelet worn for a house arrest. Unlike that system though, where the transmitter connects to a home telephone, GPS works anywhere. This added versatility is what makes GPS technology a truly invaluable tool for law enforcement.

This technology comes in different forms. One variation operates with an ankle bracelet and a transmitter that are worn on the waist which sends a continuous signal to the parole officer's computer. Parolees on the tracking system must wear the electronic waterproof ankle bands at all times and keep a pager-like GPS transmitter with them at all times. The transmitter is about 3 inches long and tall and 1.5 inches wide. Another variation is the use of a small, single unit GPS technology that can be worn on the wrist or ankle and does not necessitate the waist-borne transmitter.

### News of the Week

[Antelope Valley Veterans' Home Finally Sees Some Movement](#)

[Governor is Praised for Vetoing Gay Marriage Bill](#)

[California Job Growth Up 1.7 Percent](#)

[Governor Signs Bill to Eliminate Taxpayer-Subsidized Viagra for Sex Offenders](#)

[City of Victorville Votes to Support Governor's Cost-Cutting Initiative](#)

[Signal Editorial: Jessica's Law: You Must Do What the Legislature Won't](#)

[Governor Signs Public Safety Measures and Calls for Legislature to Pass Jessica's Law](#)

[Runner's Bill to Protect Taxpayers from Excessive Costs is Signed by Governor](#)

If the parolee ventures into "exclusion zones," areas where parolees are not allowed to enter, or out of "inclusion zones" that may include the workplace or home, the transmitter device can send an automatic alert via cell phone text message, pager, or email to their parole officer. If repeat violations occur, the parole office could have grounds to send the parolee back to prison. Another important factor with this technology is the difference between passive and active GPS monitoring. While active monitoring sends a continuous signal to the parole office, passive monitoring only sends out a signal once a day making it harder to monitor users.

A study conducted by the Florida Department of Corrections in the 2001-2002 fiscal year showed GPS tracking to be very effective. The study demonstrated that offenders on GPS tracking are less likely to violate their parole than those under traditional supervision. The study followed about 16,000 offenders placed on community supervision, including more than 1,000 under GPS monitoring. Two years later, the study showed that six percent of GPS-monitored offenders had committed new felonies or misdemeanors, compared with 11 percent of those who were not electronically monitored. This is obviously evidence of the deterrent effect of GPS.

As GPS technology continues to improve, it will become even more useful in our daily lives as a directional and locator aid, as well as an excellent tool for law enforcement to better keep our communities safe.

**If you would like to contact Senator Runner, please click  
here: [Email](#) - [Website](#)**

#### OFFICES

##### Capitol

State Capitol, Room 4066  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-445-6637  
Fax: 916-445-4662

##### Antelope Valley

848 W. Lancaster Blvd, Ste 101  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
Phone: 661-729-6232  
Fax: 661-729-1683

##### Victorville

Victorville City Hall  
14343 Civic Drive, First Floor  
Victorville, CA 92392  
Phone: 760-843-8414  
Fax: 760-843-8348

##### Santa Clarita – San Fernando Valley – Ventura County

Santa Clarita City Hall  
23920 Valencia Blvd., Suite 250  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355  
Phone: 661-286-1471 Santa  
Clarita Valley  
Phone: 661-286-1472 San  
Fernando Valley & Ventura County  
Fax: 661-286-2543